

Abstract of the Disclosure

A vacuum filtration apparatus (100) for
5 detecting microorganisms and particulates in liquid
samples. The apparatus includes a base (1), an
absorbent pad (91), a filter means (90), a funnel
(30), and a lid (60). The funnel contains an integral
flexible seal for releasably attaching the funnel to
10 the base, and an integral flexible seal for
releasably sealing the filter means to the base. The
base and funnel contain one or more lid clamp tabs.
The outer wall of the lid is segmented to make it
flexible, this flexibility allows it to be releasably
15 attached to the lid clamp tabs of either the funnel
or the base. The flexible seals and segmented lid
allow any funnel to fit to any base, and any lid to
fit to any base or to any funnel when all parts are
manufactured to normal tolerances. The apparatus
20 contains a means to keep the filter means wrinkle
free in both the dry and wet states.